...... BENNETT UNDER ECLIPSE.

THE "KING OF BEGGARS" IN TEMPORARY RETIREMENT ON THE ISLAND.

BIS TALENT AT LETTER-WRITING HAS EARNED

for its quondam self is in involuntary exile on that part of the public of the city

Beggars," is Thomas F. or Thomas The middle initial does not count, for used it and sometimes he dropped use for this name at all. of modesty, as he has generally upon a good many others living, Thomas is dumb. Perhad a lingering respect for a family have had a proud and honor-lov-Who knows? At any rate he Thomas Williams, David Mayers Boward Balnin, Frank Bennet, John Bowell and T. ivion. How many other names he is of course, impossible to say. It is not known borne to Manhattan Island. h to familiarize himself with the names and in New-York. It may be again that he is acks rather of Western enterprise.

A COPIOUS LETTER-WRITER.

Society, and taken before Cornell, in the Yorkville Police Court. well turn his knowledge to acissuing the "Beggar's Complete Letter-

of this past master in the art of putting hts on paper. He is probably one of the foolthings of the world chosen to confound the wise isance to the wealthy.

called at the rooms of the Charity Orwhich had been pledged for seventy-five The writing was at once recognized, for, as has been said, Bennett's correspondence has been most extensive, and under whatever name he might s thrice-told tale. Not long after Mrs. Tiffany's visit the mother of Henry Barnes, the artist, of No. 140 West Twenty-third-st., gave information made an appointment for the writer to call on Saturday. Chief Officer Jerome is acquainted with Bennett, and as the "king" had been especially active throughout the fall and winter months Jerome was pleased to think that at last he had in the toils. He went to the studio of Mr. Barnes, but, as usual, the "king" sent one of his faithful minions, while he himself rested on one of the benches in Madison Square. The chosen vassal in this particular instance proved to be Andrus Moran. Jerome stopped Moran, and, after learning handed him over to an officer. Then he went to the filled with righteous indignation, but it was of no use to deny his identity in the face of an old acquaintance, and he finally yielded and remarked that he had given the letter to Moran to help the latter out of a difficulty. When searched at the police station evidence incontrovertible was found that Bennett was up to his old tricks, although he had solemnly promised years before to "quit his

HIS EARLY EFFORTS. Now, while, as has been said, the date of Ben nett's arrival is not known with any degree of exactness, he first came under the notice of charitably-disposed people as far back as October of 1888. At that time he was, as it were, feeling his way. He represented himself as a widower with two children, living with his wife's mother. He went on to say that he will decharated from the on to say that he had been discharged from the hospital, had secured employment, but needed assistance to carry him over for a day or two until his work began. From that time on he used the rent names that have already been given here. He wrote so many letters using a different name, different employment and a different forged reference in each case that he was compelled to resort to a system of identification to meet each individual ed. So he kept memoranda of letters writ-

"Mrs. Blank Blank, No. 1 Chelsea Square, driver for Macy; accident on November 7; leg and face broker; reference, Pierce Greene Dana."

disposing of the mother-in-law, Bennett found that the holidays were approaching, and he d himself of the gift season of the year to new dodge Under the name of Frank P. well he wrote to Hamilton Fish, representing seef as a lamplighter on Seventeenth-st. He made the letter himself, and therein took ocanted the letter himself, and therein took oc-Wa happy New Year. He added, with a grace Mon that was moving, indeed, that he would called before to present his compliments in b, but that he feared Mr. Fish would be too through the holidays to pay any attention to His wages were small, he added, and he felt that Mr. Fish's New Year's present would be a freat blessing to himself and to his family. Submessing to himself and to his family. Submily he wrote another letter to the same man
contained a recita, of suffering and privation
would have stirred the blood of a turbaned
An investigation followed, and the fact that
sel or Bennett was a conscienceless ilar was
ted. The investigation, however, led to anand more startling discovery. People in all
ons had been receiving begging letters. So
pread was the evil that it bore the flavor of
racy, and the agents of the Charity Organisoclety began to look about them for an ordeflort to mulet the public.

AS A REGULAR BUSINESS.

ert W. Hebberd, the present superintendent, one of the agents at that time, and he found organization having "the King of as its ruling head was holding daily sesin the correspondence-room of Cooper Union. conspirators were six in number, and all of lived in the Universal Hotel, in the Bowery, worked steadily in the Cooper Union room for larce to four hours each day, writing letters code addresses. The letters written, consultant and as to who should deliver them. Every-

East Side.

It was among the young men of the lodging-houses that his example was peculiarly dangerous and subversive of industry and honesty, for, seeing how easily he obtained a livelihood by working upon the sympathies of the public, many of them were led to follow his example. His constant study was the Charity Organization Society, for in that he recognized his sworn enemy. Often in his letters he took occasion to remark to his intended victims that it was of no use to refer him to the society, as he had already applied there and found that the supply of old clothing had been exhausted. On May 29, 1894, he applied at the night office of the organization for shelter. He was referred with a note to the lodging-house. Had he gone there, he knew he would have to do some hours of labor in the morning to pay for his bed and breakfast. He did not go. A MYSTIC MISSIVE

the utmost contempt, because I told him in the ap-Anarchist, Socialist, Revolutionist, K. K. K. 1861

Whether the concluding initial letters have reference to the historic utterance "Sic semper tyrannis.

Whether the concluding initial letters have reference to the historic ulterance "Sic semper tyrannis," it is too far to inquire. All through 1895 the "King" was busy with his correspondence. His handwriting was precisely the same, cramped and stiff, letters closely conjoined, words aimost run together, and showing an alarming misuse of capitals and punctuation marks. He always had somebody else write his letters of recommendation. One of these forged communications will serve for all:

"The bearer, William Stanley, has been in our employ from May 2, 1894, to September 27, 1895, during which time we have always found him sober, honest and industrious, for which we since ely recommendation. It is the depression in business which causes us to dispense with his services."

This recommendation was written on the letterhead of a prominent New-York business firm. The head of the firm, when he gaw the letter, looked his unutterable amazement. He said that he had none of that kind in his possession. He had given an order for 500 of them, but that the printer had made mistakes and the whole lot were cast aside as worthless. He presumed they had been thrown into the waste, and that Bennett or some one else had secured one or more of them from that source. This was closely akin to the trick that the "beggars' combine" had played previously. They had secured a copy of the letterhead of a downtown charity organization in some way, and took it to a printer on the East Side, from whom they ordered 500 copies printed. The printer took the order in good faith and set up his form. From that he struck a proof, which was sent to the "combine" for correction. It was a fairly good copy, on clean paper, and they trimmed it up and used it for a letter which they trimmed it up and used it for a letter which they trimmed it up and used it for a letter was forwarded to its destination by a paid messenger boy. Mr. Cooper had already contributed perhaps 20 toward the maintenance of the band of conspirators and was gathly heart, and he uted perhaps 20 toward the maintenance of the band of conspirators and was gathering in wisdom in solid cakes. The employment of a messenger was too much for even his kindly heart, and he returned answer that he was not giving charity through the medium of paid messengers. That settled the American District service in the eyes of the "King" and his subjects. The Bowery printer never received word to complete his order for the printing.

told me that their Shoes and Clothes were all given away; that they did not have any to give me. I am a Sickly Man out of Work, Penniless So I hope good pastor, that in your kind consideration of My condition that You will at least help Me to obtain a pair of shoes. My enclosed reference from last position will prove me to be a very deserving Man. I can get a very good pair of shoes for \$1.50. If I only had a job of some kind so that I could earn it. Trusting in god's love and tender Mercy that you will, in your answer to this letter, do something for me, I am, very fervently, truly yours in Christ.

DAVID MAYERS, No. 4 Rivington-st., New-York City.

City.

N. B.—My feet are sore, frost bitten, is the reason why I cannot come myself with this letter.

In a subsequent letter to the same minister the "King" took to humble pie in this choice way. The letter bears date of January 25:

Dear Beloved Christian brother in Christ, being as I am a lost sheep but I do want to find My way Back again to the fold Which I feel now that I am Shut out from because I am utterly in great despair as well as My being very despondent at the present time Because I am now out of work and I have not got even a shelter for tonight or a place wherein I can Rest my weary head. In vain did I try very hard all day to get a job of some kind so that I would knot have to ask anyone for assistance. But god be Merciful; to Me now, a very poor Miserable Worm of the Earth; for I am now very hungry destitute, Penniless. So I am compelled, Rev. pastor, Now to ask you for a little help in gods Blessed Holy Name. I have also sent to you in this Missive My Reference from My last Employer trusting in gods love and Mercy for your kind answer, awaiting your very Kind Reply. I am Rev. Pastor Truly Yours In Christ. EDWARD BALNIN.

These illustrate the extreme of the "King's" religious frenzy, which certainly roils to a fine passionate note, but there are others. He tried every conceivable dodge to win attention from the charitably disposed, and the wonder of it is that he should have been so successful with a class of people who have interested themselves for years in the study of repressive effort as well as in the elevating labor of doing good to those who deserve it. Every one of the letters on record bears fraud stamped all over its well-inked surface, and nothing better exemplifies the love of the American people for humburgery than the fact that for ten years, almost, he has been able successfully to elude arrest and deserved punishment. Dear Beloved Christian brother in Christ, being

BAIL IN A HOMICIDE CASE REFUSED.

Justice Truax handed down his decision yesterday in regard to the application made to him in Part II of the Supreme Court to admit John Shanley to bail. Shanley is the saloonkeeper who is now in bail. Shanley is the saloonkeeper who is now in prison awaiting trial for the murder of Thomas Donegan on April 10, just outside a saloon at Avenue B and Fourteenth-st. The Justice says that the evidence taken before the Coroner's jury is of so serious a character that he would not be warranted in admitting the accused man to bail, and he must, therefore, deny the motion.

HORACE GREELEY IN COURT

SOME FAMOUS LAWSUITS IN WHICH HE WAS CONCERNED.

HENRY LAUREN CLINTON'S REMINISCENCES OF NEW-YORK CITY LITIGATION.

Clinton a well-known lawyer of this city, gives an

the New-York General Sessions for obtaining money November 7, 1851, and alleged that the offence was committed on November 7, 1818. Wood's counsel moved to quash the indictment on the ground that itations at that time required that indictments mission of the offence. The point was whether, in should be included or excluded; if included, the incisions, held that the first day should be included,

bad law, and thus shielding him from trial, th

citizens, and especially of the highly moral and religious portion of the community, that Mr. Clinton had no doubt his evidence would be not only highly credible, but absolutely conclusive. How-ever, it was not long before his new admirers began to lose faith in him. The Mayor's popularity outside of those who followed his political fortunes through of those who collected rapidly; and it seemed good and evil report declined rapidly; and it seemed to the general public that he was the same Fernando Wood as of old. His credibility as a witness would be neither greater nor less than before his sudden extraordinary popularity. Talmadge remained quiescent-he would not move-and, therefore, Mr. Clinton could not press the suit. He would not direct that it go on, nor that it be discontinued. Thus the suit remained until, years afterward, it was dismissed for want of prosecution, on motion of Mr. Greeley's counsel. Why Recorder Talmadge would go no further with it Mr. Clinton could never

"The Recorder and Mr. Greeley were very con spicuous public men. They had been in Congress together, and had been on friendly terms. Whether the procrastination of Taimadge had anything to do with the attacks upon Wood's honesty could not be discovered. A single anecdote will illustrate Mr. Wood's reputation for honesty, Mr. Clinton well remembers being present at a large Democratic meeting in the city of New-York during the Admeeting in the city of New-York during the Ad-ministration of Abraham Lincoln, when the sub-ject of Mr. Wood's honesty received the humorous attention of John Van Buren. Wood and many other Democratic leaders were on the platform attention of John Van Buren. Wood and many other Democratic leaders were on the platform while John Van Buren was addressing the meeting. He alluded to the appellation given to Lincoln of Honest Old Abe. Van Buren said to speak of a person as 'honest'—to call him 'Honest Abe,' 'Honest John,' or 'Hon

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for President of the United States. This country has raised few men who, in ability and in aptitude for intellectual work, were the equals of Horace Greeley. As an editor, and especially as a political editor, he perhaps had no equal in the United States. Eminent and pre-eminent as he was as an editor, philosopher and statesman, he had many rivals; but in costume and eccentricities Horace Greeley was without a rival in the civilized world. His eccentricities, if enumerated in detail, would fill many a volume."

THE SUITS BROUGHT BY COOPER.

THE SUITS BROUGHT BY COOPER.

"Over forty years ago he, with some other editors, became involved in libel suits brought against them by J. Fenimore Cooper, the novelist, growing out of criticisms upon some of his novels. Sometimes, on the trial of the cases, Mr. Greeley acted as his own lawyer and defended himself. Mr. Clinton recollects reading in The Tribune a very amusing editorial written by Mr. Greeley giving an account of one of these trials. In criticising his conduct of the case as his own lawyer he did not spare himself; his wit and humor were at his own expense. In illustrating the difficulty of proving the truth of the charges contained in the libel, he said, in substance (Mr. Clinton relies upon his memory, having read the editorial at the time it appeared probably forty or forty-five years ago—and having never seen it since).

"Supposing any one, in describing our faxen."

damage of takeyer, who had been a distinguished member of Congress, conducted the case for the plaintiff. J. Prescott Hall, the founder and head of the legal firm of which William M. Evarts is now the head, acted as counsel for the defendant. Among the witnesses for the plaintiff were William Cullen Bryant and Mr. Hallock, Editors respectively of The New-York Evening Post and The New-York Journal of Commerce, with whom Mr. Webb at various times had bitter editorial controversies. They were asked if they knew James Watson Webb and if they had known him well and long. After answering in the affirmative, they were requested to state what his character was. With considerable apparent hostility they promptly answered: 'Badvery bad'. ''Mr. Greeley was next called. He had for a long time carried on an editorial warfare with Mr. Webb, probably more bitter than Mr. Webb encountered at the hands of any other of his rivals. After Mr. Greeley had testified that he knew Mr. Webb, and had known him well and for a long time, he was asked what his character was—whether good or bad. Mr. Greeley's prompt answer was: Mr. Webb has good and bad qualities in excess, and I can't strike the balance.' Mr. Clinton was present, and heard the above testimony given. Mr. Webb semied and said to his counsel loud enough for those present to hear: 'I am satisfied with the answer.' This trial, which took place about forty or forty-five years ago, excited much interest on account of the position of the parties and the unique impudence of the defence. The result was a verdiet of six cents was rendered for the plaintiff. These control for the plaintiff. The case of Eacon against Webb was afterward tried twice. On the first trial the jury disagreed. On the second trial a verdiet of six cents was rendered for the plaintiff. These trials furnish a strong flustration of the unwistom of libel suits growing out of journalistic squabbles.''

BUCKLEY WILL GAIN NOTHING.

Roundsman John Buckley will gain nothing, the Appellate Division yesterday ordering his reinstate ment as roundsman. Buckley is now a patrolman attached to the West One-hundred-and-fifty-second-st. station. He was a roundsman up to January 21 last, when the Police Board remanded him to

isst, when the Police Board remanded him to patrol duty. He applied to the courts to compel the Commissioners to restore him to roundsmanship, and while the Appellate Division decision is in his favor, it avails him nothing, the Commissioners contend.

Colonel Kipp, chief clerk of the Police Board, read the decision yesterday morning, and said: "All that this amounts to is that the Board had no power to remand Buckley to patrol duty from his position as roundsman. The Court says that power belongs to the Chief. The Corporation Counsel has already decided under the Bipartizan iaw that the Chief alone had the power of making details, transfers and assignments. All the Board will have to do under this decision, in my opinion, is to rescind its resolution remanding Buckley and restore him to roundsman. The Chief or Acting Deputy Chief can then immediately remand him to patrol duty again."

PUSSY.









3.-"Nice little Kitty!"-(Fliegende Blätter.

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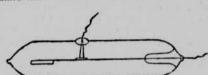
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A GREAT ADVANCE IN ELECTRICAL

through a device called a

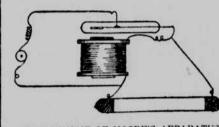
perfect possible vacuum is secured. Probably not ore than a millionth part of the air originally contained therein remains. Extending lengthwise five-



MOORE'S VACUUM VIBRATOR.

sixths of the way through the tube is a slender, straight strip of spring steel, fastened at one end in the glass itself, and bearing at the free end a bit of soft from. One wire of this electric circuit comes in through the butt end of the spring. The other wire is connected with a bit of metal sticking inward from the middle of the tube. This projection is in contact with the steel spring when the latter is motionless. But if the free end of the spring be draw; downward by holding a magnet under the tube opposite that tiny pad of soft iron, then the contact is broken, and the current previously flowing in through one wire and out through the other is in-terrupted. If the magnet is taken away the spring returns to its former position, the contact is restored, and the current again passes along the route. Instead of alternately applying and removing a

permanent magnet, Mr. Moore arranges in the proper position an electro-magnet; that is, a bir of soft iron, encircled by a coil of insulated wire. When a cur-rent flows through the latter, the bar is temporarily nade a magnet. When it is cut off, the iron is de-



ARRANGEMENT OF MOORE'S APPARATUS.

and off, it is possible to attract and release the bit of soft iron at the end of the spring in the vibrator. In the diagram showing the arrangement of the ap-paratus, it will be seen that the path of the current lyides. One branch includes the electro-magnet, and the other the tube in which the glow is to be excited. The latter is at the bottom of the diagram. It will be understood, therefore, that the instant the cur-The latter is at the bottom of the diagram. It will be understood, therefore, that the instant the current energizes the magnet the spring is pulled down and the contact is broken. This demagnetizes the core within the coil, and the spring files back and restores the circuit. These alternations take place with great rapidity, and are brought about automatically. The spring vibrates about six thousand times a minute. It is to secure this exceedingly high speed that Mr. Moore employs a high vacuum in his vibrator. If the performance was conducted in the open air, the resistance of the latter would greatly impede the motion and reduce the frequency. Many other forms of interrupters are known, but Mr. Moore thinks this better than any of them. "The ether," he says, "is the ideal medium in which to disrupt an inductive circuit for conversion into light." Practically nothing is left in the exhausted tube except that imponderable, ever-present substance which the scientists call "ether," and this has special advantages as an insulator or "dielectric." The weight and size of the core of the magnet and the number of turns of the wire around it need to be very delicately adjusted in order to secure the best luminous results.

The tube in which the light is developed is much longer than the vibrator. The latter may be only a few inches in length. The former, as exhibited in recent lectures, was seven and one-half feet long. Its diameter was a trifie less than two inches. Mr. Moore does not employ a very high vacuum here. In this respect his tube differs from that employed by Crookes, Röntegen and others in experimenting with the passage of electricity through rarified gases. Another difference between the two should be required at the international content of the parties and Correction, and the creation of the Department of the Department of the Department of the Department of the Pinance are employed in farrings and content of the Pinance are employed in farrings. Central lelip, Long Island, where several hundred to the

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charge investigations tubes have been used whose ends were penetrated by leading-in wires, which The only barrier to be overcome was the attenu of energy are obliged to pass through the glass as s not original with him. The essence of his achieve ment is that he has been able to produce more light through the introduction of his peculiar interrup

through the introduction of his peculiar interruptor placed in the circuit.

One might suppose that, as the vibrator opens and closes 6,000 times a minute, the number of electric pulsations excited in the wires would be no greater. This is not the case, however. Precisely as strokes on a church bell, at intervals of ten seconds, set up vibrations in the air many times more frequent, so, under certain circumstances, each interruption of an electric current develops in the conductor a set of infinitely more rapid oscillations. It was to produce these, for instance, that Mr. Tesla devised his so-called "diaruptive discharge coill." In like manner, Mr. Moore's 6,000 breaks a

It was to produce these, for instance, that Mr. Tesla devised his so-called "disruptive discharge coil." In like manner, Mr. Moore's 6,000 breaks a minute, effected with special abruptness, excite in the wires which lead to his glow-tube millions (perhaps hundreds of millions) of minor waves in the same period. These energy vibrations are transmitted through the rarefied air inclosed in the tube, and agitate the latter into luminosity.

A degree of warmth so faint as to be scarcely perceptible is excited in these long tubes. The difference between them and the incandescent lamp bulb in this respect is very marked, and justifies Mr. Moore's claim that he has produced "cold light." For about the same expenditure of power at the dynamo he now gets the same amount of light from one of these seven-and-a-half-foot tubes as from one incandescent filament; but he hopes to reduce this outlay by at least one-half within a few weeks, and still more eventually. The glow is soft and diffused, of course. A quantity of effuigence that is concentrated in the little pear-shaped globe in one case is in the other stretched out for a distance of two and a haif yards. But one can see to read by it perfectly. Mr. Moore recently lighted with twenty-seven of his tubes a lecture-room ordinarily illuminated with twenty-five incandescent builso, operating them with the same amount of power and obtaining an equal supply of radiance. A beautiful photograph of this apartment, taken with a five minutes' exposure and reproduced in "The Electrical Engineer" last week, affords decisive testimony as to the appartus employed and the hoped-for economies, render the invention profoundly interesting and prophetic.

A REPLY TO CONTROLLER FITCH.

WHY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT EOUGHT FER TILIZERS WITHOUT BIDS.

Robert J. Wright, the Commissioner of Correction, yesterday made a statement in reference to his recent purchase of fertilizers without advertising for bide, to which Controller Fitch had called the attention of the public. He said that the fertilizers were used on twenty-eight acres of land under cultilawn on the island, and as there had been a large increase in the area of cultivated ground on the island this year, the necessary amount of fertilizer could not be computed in advance of the time when the fertilizer was needed. The fertilizer was purchased in quantities as it was wanted, he said, and it was necessary to use it when the ground was

Mr. Wright said he could not understand why the Controller made objection to the purchase of the fer-tilizer in that way, because he passed bills for fer-tilizers in 1894 and 1895 amounting to \$3,323 45 and \$4,117.82, and in each year the fertilizer was pur-chased by the Commissioners of Charities and Cor-